

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

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### **Montana's Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.0 Percent**

HELENA – Montana's unemployment rate dropped to 4.0 percent in April. Over the month of April, Montana's unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points from the revised March unemployment rate of 4.2 percent. Montana's unemployment rate has not been this low since September 2007. The U.S. unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 5.4 percent in April.

"With strong job gains in April, Montana's economy continues to do very well in 2015," Governor Steve Bullock said. "More Montanans are entering the labor force looking for work, and more workers have been able to find jobs, which is great news for Montana workers and businesses."

"We expect strong wage growth to continue in 2015 as Montana businesses increase wages to recruit workers in this low unemployment rate environment," said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "In today's tight labor market, the Montana Department of Labor and Industry is committed to helping prepare Montana's workforce for tomorrow's jobs, so that businesses can count on their workforce to ensure strong economic growth in the years to come."

Montana's total employment levels continued to grow, increasing by 1,299 jobs in April, for a total of 10,729 jobs added over the last twelve months. Total employment estimates include payroll employment, plus agricultural and self-employed workers. Payroll employment estimates indicate a similar gain of 1,100 jobs over the month, bouncing back from a loss of 300 jobs last month.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.1 percent in April. Energy prices fell over the month, while food prices remained unchanged. Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U has declined 0.2 percent, largely due to a sharp decline in gasoline prices compared to last year. The index for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, rose 0.3 percent in April to reflect increases in the price of shelter, medical care, and transportation.

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*\*\* Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify.*

*The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.5 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau at 1-800-541-3904.*

**The next Labor Situation Report for the month of May 2015 will be released on Friday, June 19, 2015.**

**\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\***



Visit our website at [www.lmi.mt.gov](http://www.lmi.mt.gov) for additional information and analysis, including industry employment levels, background on the unemployment rate, and annual employment data for Montana's Indian Reservations. This month's Economy at a Glance summarizes the Montana employment projections, with information on estimated employment growth by industry, occupation, and region through the year 2024.

**\*\*\*\*\* COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES \*\*\*\*\***

The unemployment rate and ranking for each of Montana's 56 counties is provided below for your convenience. County unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted and should be compared to the unadjusted statewide unemployment rate of **3.9 percent**.

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	Daniels County	2.0	-0.7	915	-2
1	Sheridan County	2.0	-0.5	2,080	6
3	Fallon County	2.1	0.0	2,122	106
4	McCone County	2.2	0.0	1,081	35
5	Sweet Grass County	2.4	-1.4	1,724	28
6	Liberty County	2.5	-0.3	962	38
6	Wibaux County	2.5	-0.8	556	28
8	Chouteau County	2.6	-0.8	2,525	34
9	Powder River County	2.7	-0.8	1,043	50
9	Richland County	2.7	-0.2	7,370	385
11	Toole County	2.8	0.0	2,298	8
12	Dawson County	2.9	0.3	4,907	142
12	Gallatin County	2.9	-0.6	56,134	2,333
12	Valley County	2.9	-0.3	4,326	119
12	Yellowstone County	2.9	-0.7	79,986	2,564
16	Custer County	3.0	-0.1	6,424	-8

<b>16</b>	Lewis and Clark County	3.0	-0.7	34,711	454
<b>18</b>	Garfield County	3.1	0.8	722	11
<b>18</b>	Stillwater County	3.1	-0.3	4,952	34
<b>20</b>	Madison County	3.2	-1.4	4,349	-13
<b>21</b>	Jefferson County	3.3	-1.3	5,513	86
<b>21</b>	Judith Basin County	3.3	-1.5	924	19
<b>23</b>	Beaverhead County	3.4	-0.4	4,688	17
<b>24</b>	Carbon County	3.5	-0.4	5,397	178
<b>24</b>	Carter County	3.5	-0.8	626	10
<b>26</b>	Cascade County	3.6	-0.6	36,937	-416
<b>26</b>	Deer Lodge County	3.6	-0.6	5,158	58
<b>26</b>	Missoula County	3.6	-0.8	59,769	1,656
<b>29</b>	Teton County	3.7	-0.3	2,827	89
<b>30</b>	Silver Bow County	3.8	-1.1	16,384	-6
<b>31</b>	Hill County	3.9	-2.0	7,510	-6
<b>32</b>	Fergus County	4.0	-0.3	5,541	-19
<b>32</b>	Musselshell County	4.0	-0.3	2,379	89
<b>32</b>	Petroleum County	4.0	0.8	291	16
<b>35</b>	Golden Valley County	4.2	-0.6	391	15
<b>35</b>	Pondera County	4.2	-0.5	2,764	48
<b>37</b>	Meagher County	4.3	-0.3	846	-4
<b>38</b>	Rosebud County	4.4	-0.8	4,035	-42
<b>38</b>	Wheatland County	4.4	-1.0	745	14
<b>40</b>	Lake County	4.6	-1.2	12,066	17
<b>40</b>	Prairie County	4.6	-0.5	493	14
<b>42</b>	Powell County	4.8	-1.1	2,802	38
<b>43</b>	Broadwater County	4.9	-0.6	2,410	41
<b>43</b>	Ravalli County	4.9	-1.1	18,268	294
<b>43</b>	Roosevelt County	4.9	-0.3	4,627	27
<b>46</b>	Blaine County	5.0	-1.0	2,300	-53
<b>46</b>	Treasure County	5.0	0.8	340	2
<b>48</b>	Park County	5.2	-1.3	7,534	183
<b>48</b>	Phillips County	5.2	-0.8	1,872	31
<b>50</b>	Flathead County	5.5	-1.5	40,983	477
<b>51</b>	Granite County	6.0	-2.6	1,493	110
<b>52</b>	Big Horn County	6.4	-4.3	5,129	129
<b>53</b>	Mineral County	7.6	-1.1	1,599	5
<b>53</b>	Sanders County	7.6	-2.1	4,298	86
<b>55</b>	Glacier County	8.9	-1.3	4,946	-291
<b>56</b>	Lincoln County	10.3	-2.5	7,118	150

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